



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Rice Marketing Board advises that the 1946 deliveries of rice from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area totalled 45,583 tons, while approximately 5,128 tons were received from the Wakool area. The yields per acre were 1.87 and 1.24 tons respectively.

According to figures released by the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, Mr. Scully, numbers of dairy cows in milk in Australia decreased from 2,621,437 in 1940 to 2,277,247 in 1945. In 1945, however, there were 852,739 dairy heifers one year and over compared with 837,465 in 1943. Details for the present year are not yet available.

Milk production decreased from 1,254,000,000 gallons in 1939-40 to 1,048,000,000 in 1945-46, and Mr. Scully stated it is estimated that it will take another five years before enlargement of dairy herds will reach a level capable of increasing the production of milk to pre-war level.

In response to an enquiry regarding the possibility of the tariff on Sage, Thyme and Marjoram being increased and the quantity imported being restricted, the Division ascertained that, in the absence of any application for the imposition of protective duties on culinary herbs, there is no present intention to raise the duty. It was further ascertained that the import of herbs from countries in the Sterling area is unrestricted while imports from other countries are subject to administration control only, *i.e.*, application for permission to import must be forwarded to the Collector of Customs for consideration.

During the year 1944-45, Australia imported 1,121 lb. of herbs (all from United States of America), but the quantity had increased to 20,439 lb., valued at £773, for 1945-46. Of this quantity, 11,200 lb. were consigned from Cyprus and 7,473 from Spain.

Considerable business is done at the City Markets each morning in the sale of cut flowers by growers and agents to buyers from various parts of the City. It has been the custom of this Division for some years to collect and record the wholesale prices of the various cut flowers offered for sale and this information has been disseminated over 2FC each day. Appreciative letters have been received on the value of this service and it was recently decided, therefore, to include in our weekly publication "Weekly Marketing Notes" a resume of the week's business in so far as supplies and prices of cut flowers are concerned.

A draft of regulations for the newly constituted Navy Bean Marketing Board is now in the course of preparation. All contracts entered into with growers for next season's supplies have now become null and void as the marketing of navy beans is now the responsibility of the Board.

Tentative plans have been prepared for the reconstruction of the existing Municipal Fruit and Vegetable Markets and the provision of additional facilities. The Market's Advisory Committee, however, adheres to its frequently-stated opinion that the existing Markets are outmoded and that any expenditure in that area should be restricted to the barest possible minimum, and that it should press for the provision of new markets in a more favoured area. To this end the Committee inspected an area adjoining the Enfield Railway Marshalling Yards and was much impressed with the potentialities of the site.

The Banana Growers' Federation has approached the Minister asking that he give consideration to the question of amending in certain respects the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-40, in so far as the powers of marketing boards established under the Act are concerned, or alternatively, to make provision for a special Banana Act within the framework of the Marketing of Primary Products Act. The Federation, in submitting these suggestions, states that the Act is not acceptable to banana growers in its present form. The matter is now being examined and a report will be made to the Minister at an early date.

The Premier was recently advised by the Minister that it was undesirable to revoke the Second-Hand Cases Order under National Security Regulations (which expires 31st December, 1946 because fruit growers, particularly citrus orchardists, were still experiencing difficulty in securing supplies of second-hand cases in which to market their produce. The Hon. the Premier has now indicated that no action will be taken at this juncture to revoke the Order.

The Council of the Potato Growers' Association of New South Wales has decided to take immediate steps towards the constitution of a Potato Marketing Board in this State under the Marketing of Primary Products Act.

At a recent meeting of representatives of New South Wales fruit growers' organisations it was decided to set up a State-wide organisation to deal with problems common to all sections of the fruitgrowing industry. The name of the organisation is "The New South Wales Fruitgrowers' Central Council," Lt.-General Gordon Bennett being the first president and Mr. J. Blick, the Honorary Secretary. The initiative towards setting up a State-wide body was taken by this Division in 1945, when the Chief

of the Division convened a conference of fruitgrowers to discuss ways and means of implementing the proposal. In opening the conference the Minister (Hon. E. H. Graham), emphasised the need for a State-wide body which would facilitate dealing with problems common to all branches of the industry.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Graham), has appealed to farmers in the north-west and inland irrigation areas to grow all the grain sorghum possible this year as an offset to the drought affected wheat crops.

In a recent article in the Canadian Agricultural Institute Review, Mr. M. B. Davis, Dominion Horticulturist, discusses the expansion of the fruit and vegetable industry in Canada. The opinion is expressed that the stage is set for a tremendous increase in apple production in that country in the next 10 to 15 years. The average annual production at present is around 12,000,000 bushels, and it is estimated that this figure will be increased to 20,000,000 bushels in the not far distant future. Increased local consumption and increased exports will be required to dispose of this potential production.

It is estimated that continental Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, will have produce in 1945-46 about 52 to 57 per cent. of its average annual meat, cheese and egg requirements, and about 63 per cent. of its whole milk needs for fluid consumption.

STAFF NOTES.

Mr. R. N. Smith took up duty as First Clerk of the Division on 2nd September, and Mr. S. D. Robertson, the Second Clerk, transferred on the same date to another branch of the Department.

Mr. J. R. Williams has been appointed to the position of Acting Second Clerk and Mr. D. McGregor as Acting Third Clerk.